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Military Construction Bill For FY68 Totals $2.6 Billion

Increased funds for troop and bachelor officer quarters and family housing went to Congress March 9 in the form of the omnibus $2.6 billion Military Construction Authorization Bill for FY68.

The bill contains requests for 72,000 troop and bachelor officer housing spaces at an estimated cost of $254 million.

The legislation also contemplates construction of 11,490 housing units in the United States and its possessions, plus 1,010 family quarters overseas at a cost of $787 million.

"Recent comprehensive studies within the Department of Defense have reaffirmed the view that the adequacy of living accommodations for the armed forces plays a decisive role in influencing retention in the services of high calibre enlisted and officer specialists and other personnel," a DOD news release said.

Another important segment of the bill is devoted to replacement of or additions to military hospitals. Many medical facilities are 25 or more years old and date back to construction under World War II mobilization criteria.

The Military Construction Bill includes all construction projects at some 361 military installations stateside and at numerous overseas areas such as the Caribbean, Europe, Pacific Islands, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia.

Air Force Seeks Design Studies On New 'A-X' Attack Aircraft

Air Force is requesting proposals from 21 companies for preliminary design studies for a new, low-cost attack aircraft, called the "A-X."

The A-X would be designed for close support of ground troops.

A Defense Department announcement said the new aircraft "would have capabilities equal to or better than the Douglas A-1 aircraft which is now being used in Vietnam."

The A-X would be relatively inexpensive, rugged, highly survivable and would meet Air Force needs for specialized air support in the future, DOD said.

RECEIVED DOCUMENTS DIVISION

TWENTY-ONE MEDALS—Capt. Warren L. Foltz, USAF, receives congratulations from Maj. Gen. Richard P. Klocko, commander, Air Force Communications Service, Scott AFB, Ill. General Klocko presented the captain with 21 medals he earned as a navigator on a C-123 in Vietnam. Medals included 16 Air Medals, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Cost-of-Living Allowance For Vietnam Ends May 1

DOD's Per Diem Committee has informed MACV that the cost-of-living-allowance (COLA) can no longer be justified and will terminate May 1.

About 31,000 servicemen in Vietnam, largely in the Saigon-Tan Son Nhut area, are affected.

COLA is paid only when all cost elements, other than housing, are excessive when compared to average living costs in the United States. Specifically, this allowance is paid only to officers and enlisted members who are required to obtain meals on the economy or in nonfunded messes.

DOD said the American Embassy and MACV made two joint cost-of-living surveys—one in late summer 1966, the other in February of this year—and reported overall costs lower than in the United States.

COLA allowances differ according to rank, ranging from $27 monthly for an E-2 to $84 for a colonel.

Washington Memos

ARMY REMINDS SOLDIERS they may withdraw savings from overseas deposits when arriving home under the special leave policy which allows 30 days leave to those voluntarily extending in hostile fire area. Withdrawals cannot be made until soldier gets home, but advance application may be made through local unit commander.

USO EXECUTIVE, VIETNAM, Sam Anderson, has been presented Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service. Award was presented by Brig. Gen. Donald H. McGovern, USA, on behalf of Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam. Bob Hope and Martha Raye are only other recipients of award for Vietnam service.

AIR FORCE OFFICIALS have expressed satisfaction with performance of second SV-5D PRIME flight from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. PRIME (Precision Recovery Including Maneuverable Entry) craft was aboard an Atlas SLV-III rocket booster. Preliminary analysis of flight data showed spacecraft maneuvered from straight line flight path and returned as planned while descending to preselected target area. Major objective of flight was to further test theory that a vehicle can be designed to operate like an orbital spacecraft, yet be maneuvered like an aircraft during re-entry and in atmospheric travel.

TRIESTE I SPHERE used by U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory in 1960 record-setting dive in Mariannias Trench off Guam will be displayed at Montreal World's Fair. Sphere attracted wide attention by diving nearly seven miles straight down in the deepest known spot in the ocean.

ELDER HALF OF only father-son chaplain team in Army history serving simultaneously on active duty has been named chaplain of year by Reserve Officers Association. He is Chaplain (Col.) James A. Connett, Ft. Myer (Va.) post chaplain and Chaplain-in-Charge, Arlington National Cemetery. His son is Chaplain (Capt.) Reynold B. Connett, paratroop chaplain, Ft. Benning, Ga. Elder Connett was once chaplain, 82d Airborne Division, making 64 jumps as morale booster for airborne trainees making their first jump.

AIR UNIVERSITY'S WARFARE Systems School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., has just completed first class of new Fundamentals of Space Operations course. Course superceded Aerospace Operations Course and was condensed from three to two weeks. Field trip to Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., was included in course. Forty-seven Air Force officers and civilians attended.

BRONZE STAR—Cdr. C. Ray Smith, Commander, Attack Squadron S6, receives the Bronze Star Medal from RAdm. Roger W. Mehle, commander Carrier Div. ONE, aboard the USS Enterprise, underway in the South China Sea.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SURVEY of Army and Air Force National Guard, "Civilian in Peace, Soldier in War," has been prepared by research analysts of Army Library, The Adjutant General's Office. Published as DA Pamphlet 130-2, it is available through normal distribution channels. Pamphlet is described as depicting full panorama of the Minuteman, and role he has played in defense of nation.

LIGHTWEIGHT ENTOMOLOGICAL survey kit is being developed by U.S. Army Limited War Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. New kit will weigh about two pounds, instead of 110 pounds. Army entomologists collect data on insects which cause illnesses and diseases impeding military operations.

NAVY FIGHTER SQUADRON 41, NAS Oceana, Va., claims distinction of being first operational Navy squadron to fly newest member of "Phantom" jet family, the F-4J. New fighter has faster flying speeds plus slower landing speeds than previous "Phantom" aircraft.

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE has been requested to train more than 10 thousand students in FY68, an increase of 1,900 over previous year's requirements. Increase is attributed to larger inputs in Vietnamese training, largest single language area. Complete schedule shows 63 languages and dialects will be taught during year.

SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND hours of flying without an accident has been recorded by the 61st Military Airlift Wing, Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Wing's flying safety record dates from June 1956.

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Background for Commanders

THE U.S.S.R. TODAY

(The following excerpts are from a recent address by Foy D. Kohler, Deputy Under Secretary of State and former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union.)

The longer I have been associated with the Soviet Union the more I have been impressed by the increasing complexities of its society and the many facets of its life. This is a country of great contradictions: contradictions between the old and the new; differences between what the Soviets really believe; contrasts between the accomplishments of advanced technology and the poverty of everyday life.

• We are told by the Soviets that theirs is a modern society based on a new and revolutionary ideology. But anyone who has lived in the U.S.S.R. quickly becomes aware that so much of what is said and done, so many of the attitudes people have, can be traced back to the myths, traditions and experiences of their long and turbulent history. [For] example: **the profound antipathy which a Russian feels towards the Chinese does not arise from a differing interpretation of Communist ideology, or from the struggle for power and influence between the two countries within the Communist world.** Rather it is an ingrained prejudice which goes back to the Mongol-Tatar invasions 7 centuries ago and Tatar occupation and despoilation of the Russian lands for the next 3 centuries.

• Soviet science and technology at its best is on a level with the most advanced in the world. Soviet accomplishments in space bear witness to this fact. Yet the average Russian lives without the benefit of most of the applied technology which is so readily available to Americans and West Europeans. **One cannot help being struck by the remarkable contrast of a society which produces better cosmonauts than mechanics, more sophisticated electronics than plumbing, better Sputniks than cars.**

• You have all heard the boast that there is no unemployment in the Soviet Union, and in a technical sense that is not far wrong. There are few persons who do not have some gainful occupation. This is accomplished in a command economy by simply assigning to industrial and agricultural enterprises quotas of workers and fixed wage funds. The observable result is that instead of a few percent of *unemployment* they have many times that much *under-employment*. Moreover, the economy is forced to operate in a strait-jacket. **Much of the debate about economic reform in the U.S.S.R. today reflects a realization that their economy must be released from such strait-jackets if it is to operate efficiently and effectively.**

• Communist ideology still provides the basic guidelines for Soviet leadership. It forms the intellectual rationale for the political and economic system. Official Soviet spokesmen go to great pains to justify their actions in terms of Communist dogma, and castigate their enemies for failing to conform to its teachings. Yet the very fact that Stalin and Khrushchev—the leaders who dominated and personified that system for more than 40 of its 50 years of existence—have been rejected and discredited is a good measure of the decline of the basic ideology. **It is no longer an effective instrument of political power and clearly has little to do with the daily life of the people.**

I believe the East Europeans and Russians are in some respects even less ideologically oriented than their West European brothers. Not long ago I asked an East European Communist professor, "Why did your ideology die so quickly?" He responded "Die so quickly? I think it took too long to die!" His attitude is symptomatic of many others who, disillusioned by Stalinism, embittered by persistent economic and social failures of the systems, are turning to more pragmatic solutions.

• In this situation, the revolution of rising expectations which has already affected so much of the world has penetrated the Soviet Union and is producing profound effects. **The Russians are becoming increasingly aware of the way we live in the West and the benefits which are available to us. They are demanding some of the same things for themselves and are building up irresistible pressures on their rulers.**

Any progress in satisfying this demand, however, is going to require some very tough decisions. There is a simple mathematical formula involved. The gross national product of the Soviet Union was about 330 billion dollars last year—on a comparable basis less than half that of the U.S., which was about 740 billion. With such a relatively small economic base the U.S.S.R. still tries to rival us in space and military programs. The fact that the new Soviet leadership is nearly two years late producing the five-year plan it promised bears testimony to the difficulty it is having making the necessary decisions on allocations of resources between guns, butter and sputniks.

I would like to make one final observation about my experience in the Communist world. In 1947 Moscow was the headquarters of world communism, dominating the entire world movement. Today we can no longer talk of a Sino-Soviet bloc. Indeed, we cannot properly refer to a Soviet bloc. **The Communist world has ceased to be a monolithic entity. Every day brings new evidence of increasingly independent actions by governments which once were completely subservient to Moscow. Doctrinal communism has proved no match for the powerful forces of national aspirations in our century.**

WAVE Strength Increase Authorized by Navy

The Chief of Naval Personnel has announced a 20 percent expansion of WAVE strength, adding authorization for 100 more officers and 1,000 more enlisted members.

This will bring their strength to 600 officers and 6,000 enlisted women.

About a month earlier, the Air Force announced a similiar increase of WAFs by 100 officers and 1,000 enlisted female airmen, bringing Air Force's authorization to 850 officers and 6,000 airmen.

The Marine Corps reports that it is working on a comparable expansion of its women members to the Navy increase.

Increasing distaff strength to replace men for operational duties was one of the many recommendations made recently by the President's National Advisory Commission.

Navy said it will use the women in logistical support roles to permit assignment of men to more critical operational areas.

Army Reactivates 6th Armored Cav. Reg.

The 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment will be reactivated at Ft. George D. Meade, Md., in March, as part of Army's Strategic Force. Authorized strength of the regiment will be 3,349.

Principal elements of the regiment, which is organized and equipped for security and reconnaissance missions, are a headquarters and headquarters troop, three cavalry squadrons and an air cavalry troop.

The 6th was organized in 1861 and fought in 11 Civil War campaigns, the Indian Wars, the War with Spain, the China Relief Expedition, the Philippine Insurrection, Pershing's Punitive Expedition to Mexico, and World Wars I and II. It was inactivated in October 1963.

Commander of the regiment will be Col. Clayton N. Gompf, Fairfax, Va.

Sp6 Lawrence Joel, USA

Air Force Pararescuemen Give Aid to Submariner

Air Force pararescuemen recently furnished medical assistance to a seaman in serious condition aboard a submarine.

Within 30 minutes after receiving a relayed distress message from the submarine USS Barbel, on duty in the Pacific, an aircraft from Andersen AFB, Guam, was enroute with a doctor and two medic-trained pararescuemen aboard.

Arriving over the submarine, the pararescuemen parachuted into the ocean. Once aboard the sub, they assisted a Navy corpsman in providing medical aid to the seaman who was experiencing convulsions and extreme difficulty in breathing.

Relaying information to the doctor in the aircraft, the pararescuemen and corpsman followed the doctor's advice, including administration of intravenous fluids to the patient, whose condition was improved when the sub reached Guam the next day.

Army Medical Aidman Wins Medal of Honor For Heroism in Vietnam

President Johnson expressed the nation's enduring gratitude to Sp6 Lawrence Joel, of Winston Salem, N. C., in presenting the Medal of Honor to the medical aidman at a White House ceremony March 9.

Specialist Joel was a Sp5 when he distinguished himself Nov. 8, 1965, as a member of Hq & Hq Co., 1st Bn. (AB), 503d Inf., 173d AB Bde., in Vietnam. He is the first Army medical aidman to win the medal for Vietnam action.

The career soldier is credited with demonstrating indomitable courage, determination and professional skill during an attack that wounded or killed nearly every man in his company's lead squad. After 24 hours' action, Viet Cong dead numbered 410.

He moved among the wounded troops, suffering a leg wound from enemy machine gun fire, and "as bullets dug up the dirt around him, he held plasma bottles high while kneeling; completely engrossed in his life saving mission."

After being struck a second time, with a bullet in his thigh, he dragged himself around to treat 13 more men before expending his supplies. With more supplies, "he crawled through an intense hail of gunfire to the wounded men."

The citation states that throughout the long battle, Specialist Joel continued to comfort and treat the wounded until his own evacuation was ordered.

NFL Commissioner Receives AF Appreciation Scroll

Gen. John P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff, has presented a scroll of appreciation to Pete Rozelle, National Football League commissioner.

Mr. Rozelle received the scroll for significant, patriotic contribution to the Air Force personnel recruitment program.

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